

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for estimating visceral fat area of a subject, comprising the steps of:

acquiring predetermined biological data of the subject including at least values indicating height and fat mass of the subject, and

estimating a value indicating visceral fat area of the subject based on the acquired biological data,

~~wherein the estimation of the value indicating visceral fat area is performed by using the product of an Xth power of the height value and an Yth power of the fat mass value, where each of X and Y is a number other than zero.~~

wherein the estimation of the value indicating visceral fat area is performed by using a parameter expressed as Ht^2/FM , where Ht is the value indicating height and FM is the value indicating fat mass.

2-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method for estimating visceral fat area of a subject, comprising the steps of:

acquiring predetermined biological data of the subject including at least values indicating height and fat mass of the subject, and

estimating a value indicating visceral fat area of the subject based on the acquired biological data,

wherein a value indicating age of the subject is further acquired in the step of acquiring the biological data and wherein the estimation of the value indicating visceral fat area is performed by using an equation (1) as follows:

$$VFA = C11*FM/Ht^2 + C12*Age + C13 \quad (1)$$

where Ht is the value indicating height, FM is the value indicating fat mass, VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, and C11, C12 and C13 are constants.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein a value indicating age of the subject is further acquired in the step of acquiring the biological data and wherein the estimation of the value indicating visceral fat area is performed by using an equation (2) as follows:

$$VFA = C21*Ht^2/FM + C22*Age + C23 \quad (2)$$

where VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, and C21, C22 and C23 are constants.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method for estimating visceral fat area of a subject, comprising the steps of:

acquiring predetermined biological data of the subject including at least values indicating height and fat mass of the subject, and

estimating a value indicating visceral fat area of the subject based on the acquired biological data,

wherein values indicating age and weight of the subject are further acquired in the step of acquiring the biological data and wherein the estimation of the value indicating visceral fat area is performed by using an equation (3) as follows:

$$VFA = C31*FM/Ht^2 + C32*Age + C33*Wt/Ht^2 + C34 \quad (3)$$

where Ht is the value indicating height, FM is the value indicating fat mass, VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, Wt is the value indicating weight, and C31, C32, C33 and C34 are constants.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1[[3]], wherein values indicating age and weight of the subject are further acquired in the step of acquiring the biological data and wherein the estimation of the value indicating visceral fat area is performed by using an equation (4) as follows:

$$VFA = C41*Ht^2/FM + C42*Age + C43*Wt/Ht^2 + C44 \quad (4)$$

where VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, Wt is the value indicating weight, and C41, C42, C43 and C44 as constants.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method for estimating visceral fat area of a subject, comprising the steps of:

acquiring predetermined biological data of the subject including at least values indicating height and fat mass of the subject, and

estimating a value indicating visceral fat area of the subject based on the acquired biological data,

wherein values indicating age and body fat percentage of the subject are further acquired in the step of acquiring the biological data and wherein the estimation of the value indicating visceral fat area is performed by using an equation (5) as follows:

$$VFA = C51*FM/Ht^2 + C52*Age + C53* \%FAT + C54 \quad (5)$$

where Ht is the value indicating height, FM is the value indicating fat mass, VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, %FAT is the value indicating body fat percentage, and C51, C52, C53 and C54 are constants.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein values indicating age and body fat percentage of the subject are further acquired in the step of acquiring the biological data and wherein the estimation of the value indicating visceral fat area is performed by using an equation (6) as follows:

$$VFA = C61*Ht^2/FM + C62*Age + C63* \%FAT + C64 \quad (6)$$

where VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, %FAT is the value indicating body fat percentage, and C61, C62, C63 and C64 are constants.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for estimating visceral fat area of a subject, comprising:

a data acquiring component for acquiring predetermined biological data of the subject including at least values indicating height and fat mass of the subject, and

a data processing component for estimating a value indicating visceral fat area of the subject based on the acquired biological data,

~~wherein the data processing component estimates the value indicating visceral fat area by using the product of an Xth power of the height value and a Yth power of the fat mass value, where each of X and Y is a number other than zero.~~

wherein the data processing component estimates the value indicating visceral fat area by using a parameter expressed as Ht^2/FM , where Ht is the value indicating height and FM is the value indicating fat mass.

12-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 12,~~ A system for estimating visceral fat area of a subject, comprising:

a data component for acquiring predetermined biological data of the subject including at least values indicating height and fat mass of the subject, and

a data processing component for estimating a value indicating visceral fat area of the subject based on the acquired biological data,

wherein the data acquiring component further acquires a value indicating age of the subject and wherein the data processing component estimates the value indicating visceral fat area by using an equation (1) as follows:

$$VFA = C11*FM/Ht^2 + C12*Age + C13 \quad (1)$$

where Ht is the value indicating height, FM is the value indicating fat mass, VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, and C11, C12 and C13 are constants.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 [[13]], wherein the data acquiring component further acquires a value indicating age of the subject and wherein the data processing component estimates the value indicating visceral fat area by using an equation (2) as follows:

$$VFA = C21 * Ht^2 / FM + C22 * Age + C23 \quad (2)$$

where VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, and C21, C22 and C23 are constants.

16. (Previously presented) ~~The system of claim 12,~~ A system for estimating visceral fat area of a subject, comprising:

a data acquiring component for acquiring predetermined biological data of the subject including at least values indicating height and fat mass of the subject, and

a data processing component for estimating a value indicating visceral fat area of the subject based on the acquired biological data,

wherein the data acquiring component further acquires values indicating age and weight of the subject and wherein the data processing component estimates the value indicating visceral fat area by using an equation (3) as follows:

$$VFA = C31 * FM / Ht^2 + C32 * Age + C33 * Wt / Ht^2 + C34 \quad (3)$$

where Ht is the value indicating height, Fm is the value indicating fat mass, VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, Wt is the value indicating weight, and C31, C32, C33 and C34 are constants.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 [[13]], wherein the data acquiring component further acquires values indicating age and weight of the subject and wherein the data processing component estimates the value indicating visceral fat area by using an equation (4) as follows:

$$VFA = C41 * Ht^2 / FM + C42 * Age + C43 * Wt / Ht^2 + C44 \quad (4)$$

where VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, Wt is the value indicating weight, and the C41, C42, C43 and C44 are constants.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 12,~~ A system for estimating visceral fat area of a subject, comprising:

a data component for acquiring predetermined biological data of the subject including at least values indicating height and fat mass of the subject, and

a data processing component for estimating a value indicating visceral fat area of the subject based on the acquired biological data,

wherein the data acquiring component further acquires values indicating age and body fat percentage of the subject and wherein the data processing component estimates the value indicating visceral fat area by using an equation (5) as follows:

$$VFA = C51 * FM / Ht^2 + C52 * Age + C53 * \%FAT + C54 \quad (5)$$

where Ht is the value indicating height, Fm is the value indicating fat mass, VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, %FAT is the value indicating body fat percentage, and C51, C52, C53 and C54 are constants.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11[[13]], wherein the data acquiring component further acquires values indicating age and body fat percentage of the subject and wherein the data processing component estimates the value indicating visceral fat area by using an equation (6) as follows:

$$VFA = C61 * Ht^2 / FM + C62 * Age + C63 * \%FAT + C64 \quad (6)$$

where VFA is the value indicating visceral fat mass, Age is the value indicating age, %FAT is the value indicating body fat percentage, and C61, C62, C63 and C64 are constants.

20. (Cancelled)